

PASTORAL ADDRESS,

INVITING THE CATHOLICS OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE BUILDING OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL'S, IN THAT CITY.

MICHAEL POWER,

*By the Grace of God, and the appointment of the Holy Apostolic See, first Bishop of Toronto, &c., &c., &c.
To the Clergy, Secular and Regular, and to all the Faithful of our Diocese, Health and Blessing in the Lord.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

When on the eighth day of May of the last year, We laid the foundation stone of the new Cathedral Church of St. Michael, the Archangel, We felt that we were commencing a great and arduous undertaking, that could only be brought to completion through the zeal, and with the co-operation, of the inhabitants of Our Episcopal City, and of the whole Diocese.

We delayed making any appeal to the Diocese in general, until such time as those who are more immediately interested in the work, had contributed according to their means and the extent of their generosity. But it is well known to you all, that the Cathedral Church belongs properly to no peculiar Parish, but that it is the Mother Church of the whole Diocese, and it is but just that such a temple should be built in a manner and style suitable to the Greatness and Majesty of Our Holy Religion. This sacred and noble edifice is already in a great state of forwardness, when We consider the limited means placed at our disposal: for, relying on the good and kind Providence of God, We have not hesitated a single moment in pressing the work onward, convinced as We were, not only of the usefulness, but likewise of the necessity of such a building. When questioned, at the beginning of what many considered a vast undertaking, on what funds We relied for the final completion of Our Cathedral,—where We were to find sufficient capital, in the Faith of our poor, but generous people: We promise ourselves a sure and inexhaustible source, which will supply all that is necessary for but, on the other hand, We could not lose sight of the fact, that it seems to be, in the present age, the order of Divine Providence that all the great works of Religion should, in a great measure, depend on the voluntary contributions of the many, that the poor should, by the cheerful offering of their mite, be placed as it were on an equal footing with the rich, and that what was generously offered in former times from the treasures of the Kings and Princes of the world, should be replaced by the small but numerous gifts of the humble Faithful. We commenced this work with the full confidence that you would not allow it to be said, that while so many zealous Prelates in North America are erecting splendid edifices to the Honour of Almighty God, you would suffer your Bishop to be humbled in beholding among you less love for your Faith,—less zeal for the Glory of His House than among your brethren of other Churches. Kingston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Mobile, Louisville, and other Cities, have already commenced similar works with zeal and promptitude, and they feel that their efforts will be crowned with success; and why should we not enter upon this good work with the same feeling,—with the same trust in the never-failing kindness of God, on whose assistance and blessing we must chiefly depend in all our enterprises, for “unless the Lord build the house, they labour in vain who build it.” It is unnecessary that we should dwell on the many motives that you have for contributing at this particular moment towards the building of this New Cathedral: We submit but one only to your consideration: it is likely to make an impression upon your minds and upon your hearts. You have heard for the last few months that your brethren in Ireland are suffering from a scarcity of food, and are threatened with all the consequences of so dreadful a calamity. We see by the last arrivals that it is impossible to exaggerate the frightful prospects that lie before them. Other nations are exposed to this and more severe visitations of God, while you enjoy every blessing which the Author of all good gifts can bestow upon you: it behoves you, therefore, to evince your gratitude to Almighty God, by the performance of some great work which may be a lasting proof of your thankfulness to your Maker, for His bounty and kindness towards you. We invite you most earnestly, for this purpose, to aid in the erecting of Our Cathedral: let it go up as a mark and a token of your Religion,—as a thanks-offering and an acknowledgment of the Divine Mercy thereof, Eccles. XXXV. 9. Let every one bestow with a good heart and cheerful countenance whatever he can spare, and this noble pile will soon be completed, and stand before all as a monument of your faith and of your zeal for the glory of the House of God. If any one should not be able to contribute at once, let him treasure up daily, weekly, or monthly, whatever he purposes to give; so that all may have an opportunity of testifying their willingness to aid, and their concurrence in the establishment of Religion on a solid and permanent footing in the Diocese. We would be sorry to place any bounds to your liberality; but there are none that have been in this favoured Province for a short time, who cannot contribute at least Five Shillings (One Dollar,) towards the completion of this sacred edifice. Heretofore you have given with great liberality to those who, from distant parts, have made an appeal to your Faith: undoubtedly the same readiness, the same spirit of devotedness, will be made even more apparent now, when you are called upon for the first time by your own Bishop to contribute towards the building of a Church worthy of occupying the first place among the Churches of the Diocese. We exhort you, therefore, most pressing, in the language of the inspired writer, to give to the Most High according to what He hath given to you, and with a good eye to do according to the ability of your hands, for the Lord maketh recompense, and will give you seven times as much, Eccles. XXXV. 12, 13. Your Holy Faith teaches you that the merciful dispensation and kind providence of Almighty God leaves no good work unrewarded: in helping, therefore, to erect this Church, you are preparing abundant blessings for yourselves, for your children, and your children's children for generations to come; for all will participate, in life and in death, in all the acts of Religion which shall be performed, and more especially in the oblation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar, which shall be daily offered in this temple; and every year, on the 29th day of September, the Festival of St. Michael, the Archangel, a Solemn Mass shall be celebrated in the New Cathedral, for the eternal and temporal welfare of all who may have assisted in the building and final completion of St. Michael's Cathedral of Toronto.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to inform you that We grant for the ensuing Lent of 1847, the same dispensation which We have imparted to you, by virtue of the Apostolic Authority, in former years, and that likewise we have determined to leave you for a few months, in order to consult in Europe for the best interests of Religion in this Province. We commit the government of the Diocese, during Our absence, to the Very Reverend Dean and Vicar General, W. P. McDonald, and to the Venerable the Archdeacon, J. J. Hay, to whom We have entrusted, jointly and severally, the most ample faculties for the administration of the Diocese.

As soon as We shall have left, the last collect at each Mass shall be pro peregrinantibus vel iter agentibus. We invite the Clergy to recite the Litany of the B. V. Mary, every Sunday after Mass, and all the Faithful every day to pray that Our journey may be happy and prosperous, and conducive to the greater honour and glory of God and the interests of Religion.

Beloved Brethren, We beseech you the more to pray for us that We may be restored to you the sooner: and now may the God of Peace fit you in all goodness that you may do His will, doing in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom is glory for ever and ever. Amen. Heb. XIII. 19, 20, 21.

Shall the present Pastoral Address be read at the time of the High or Principal Mass in all the Churches of this Diocese, the first Sunday after its reception, or on the first visit of each Missionary to his respective Missions: immediately after Easter (with the exception of that part referring to the regulations for Lent), it may be read once more.

Given at Our Episcopal Palace of St. Michael's, in the City of Toronto, under Our Hand and Seal, and countersigned by Our Secretary, on the Festival of St. Thomas of Canterbury, this twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

✠ MICHAEL, Bishop of Toronto.

By His LORDSHIP'S COMMAND,

J. J. HAY, Archd., Secretary.

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[TRUE COPY.]